

of the proposer of the scheme, who, It had seemed to him, might be an emissary of Dreyfus's enemies, anxious to inveigle Zola through his English representative into some illegal action which might ruin the cause. And indeed, after being subjected to a severe examination, the man vanished, as Hans Breitman would have said, into the *Ewig'keit*.

At the consultation with Mr. Wareham it was found that, quite apart from the English laws, the French authorities claimed the right to serve process on their own subjects all the world over ; and it therefore seemed best to remove Zola from London immediately, particularly as that very day he had been recognised by an English lady in the Buckingham Palace Eoad,<sup>1</sup> besides which some suspicion seemed to have been roused at the Grosvenor Hotel. Finally Mr. "Wareham, whose services at this time were of great value, offered his own house, 1 Prince's Eoad, "Wimbledon, as a provisional retreat. Zola's stay there was brief, however, for Wimbledon soon seemed to be too populous a place and too near both to London and to Merton, where Vizetelly resided, for it was virtually a certainty that the latter would soon be besieged by journalists eager to know what had become of Zola. His disappearance from France had created an extraordinary sensation. His presence was reported now in Switzerland, now in Norway, now in Holland, now in

Belgium,  
now in other parts of the world, but at last  
some English  
newspapers found the right track, which they  
were good  
enough to follow no farther than the Oatlands  
Park Hotel,

<sup>1</sup> It fortunately turned out that the lady was the wife of  
Mr. Percy Spalding of Messrs. Chatto and Windus, Zola's English  
publishers, and thus the  
matter went no further.